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IN STEP WITH DTSB & CO.

The electronic newsletter for Dana Tai Soon Burgess & Co.

Fall 2006

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

We have an exciting fall season planned for you, centered around performances of our recently premiered dance, *Images from the Embers*. *Images* is my favorite work—it is timely and emotional, and although it is physically and technically challenging, it appears seamless.

On October 25 and November 7, you will have a rare opportunity to see *Images* in two very different-sized venues. As a choreographer, I think the way that audiences perceive a dance is often at least partially dependent on the venue itself. Is the venue small or large? Does the audience sit above or below the stage? How close is the audience to the dancers? What happens to scale with the size of the venue? Are characters perceived as more vulnerable when the proscenium is large? These are all questions that viewers subconsciously feel but often do not take into account when trying to understand why dances can look so different. When on tour in Peru this past summer, the company had a similar situation of performing in two distinct venues, one a municipal theatre and the other an alternative multifunction space. I loved seeing how the work changed and how the performers adjusted their projection of emotions to fit each space.

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to present you with *Images* in a large venue at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, quickly followed by a small, intimate venue at the Embassy of Austria. For me, it's exciting to see the work move through multiple venues and to witness audience reactions at each space. I hope that you will join us for both shows because a wonderful lesson on viewing dance can be learned. I will be in the audience every night, so please feel free to find me and discuss your thoughts on the performance.

While *Images* will be the centerpiece of each show, we have included some special extras. At George Mason University, you will also see historic Michio Ito solos and at the Austrian embassy, a new suite of Mozart dances, which I just finished. These extras are a nice counterpoint to *Images*, because they use music as a catalyst rather than an emotional sound environment.

I look forward to seeing you at performances very soon!

Dana Tai Soon Burgess
Artistic Director

IN THE GREEN ROOM

Go behind the scenes with DTSB & Co. dancer Sarah Halzack.

One of DTSB & Co.'s newest dancers, Sarah joined the company this year. She recently graduated summa cum laude from George Washington University, where she

double-majored in journalism and dance. Last year, she was an intern at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. In the company's upcoming performances of *Images from the Embers*, Sarah will be dancing the mysterious and ominous role of Death.

Where were you born?
Farmington, Connecticut

What is the first thing you do in the morning?
Eat! Even before a shower, I need a tall glass of water, a granola bar, and some fruit.

What do you like best about your work with the company?
I like the fact that it affords me the opportunity to dance alongside other incredible dancers. Working with talented people challenges me and inspires me to improve on my own artistry.

If you weren't in the dance field, what would you be?
I think I'd like to be an arts journalist or work for an organization that curates arts programming.

What about you would surprise people?
I love Yankees baseball and UConn basketball. No one ever expects a dancer to be a big sports fan!

Do you have a specialty in the kitchen?
Chocolate chip cookies made according to Grandma Halzack's secret recipe.

What is your idea of the ultimate vacation?
Anywhere with lots of sunshine, breezy beaches, delicious food, and my family.

If you could have dinner with anyone, dead or alive, who would you choose?
I think I'd have dinner with Isadora Duncan. She was an incredibly influential dancer, a strong proponent for women's rights, and was known for having a very colorful personal life. I think a dinner with her would be as insightful and intellectually stimulating as it would be fun.

What is your most valued possession?
The thing I value most is my family. It's not really a possession, but it is more dear to me than anything else.

STAGE NOTES

DTSB & Co. is pleased to announce the appointment of Connie Lin Fink as its new associate artistic director. Connie will continue dancing with the company, as she has for the past five years. After receiving a master of fine arts degree in dance from the University of Maryland, Connie performed with several local companies and has been recognized with two Metro DC Dance Awards (Emerging Performer, 2003; Individual Performance, 2004). In addition to her roles with DTSB & Co., she is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Theater and Dance at George Washington University and teaches in Montgomery County public schools.

From a high-caliber field of approximately 200 candidates, DTSB & Co. has been selected as a featured charity in the 2006-07 *Catalogue for Philanthropy*. The catalogue, which is supported by local foundations, profiles different charitable organizations as a service to the community. According to Barbara Harman, executive

director of the Harman Family Foundation, "Charities were selected for excellence, innovation, and cost-effectiveness." The catalogue will be issued in mid-November, and more information is available at www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org/dc.

TROUPE TRIVIA

The company's newest male dancer, Kelly Moss Southall, has valuable talents outside the dance studio: he is also a costume designer and will be creating new costumes for the premiere of *Mozart as Mason* at the Austrian embassy.

CALENDAR

October 25, 2006; 8 p.m.

Images from the Embers & Michio Ito Solos
George Mason University Center for the Arts
4400 University Drive
Fairfax, Virginia
\$36, \$28, \$18
Ticket information: 888-945-2468, www.tickets.com
Venue information: www.gmu.edu/cfa

November 7, 2006; 7:30 p.m.

Images from the Embers & *Mozart as Mason*
Embassy of Austria
3524 International Court, NW
Washington, DC
Free
RSVP required: 202-895-6776
More information: www.acfdc.org/burgess

January 2-12, 2007

Teaching & Performance Residency
John Britto Studios
Chennai, India

January 2007

Start of 15th Anniversary Celebration
Stay tuned for details!

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Please support our ambitious performing and touring schedule by making a donation to DTSB & Co. You'll help us create beautiful works of art and bring them to more audiences around the world. And you'll receive a valuable year-end tax deduction!

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Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

We are also part of the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area, under Moving Forward: Contemporary Asian American Dance Company (#7626).

ABOUT DTSB & CO.

DTSB & Co. is a community-based, nonprofit arts organization that uses dance as a medium for enhancing social and cultural understanding. A resident company of the Joy of Motion Dance Center, DTSB & Co. is a part of Moving Forward: Contemporary Asian American Dance Company, which also houses the Moving Forward Youth Program.

Dana Tai Soon Burgess, Founder and Artistic Director
Amy Alipio, President, Board of Directors

Institutional sponsors include the Dallas Morse Coors Foundation, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the Philip L. Graham Fund, the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, the Morningstar Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the William Paley Foundation.

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Visit us online at www.dtsbco.com, where you'll find more information about the company and stunning visuals of the dancers in performance, including both photos and streaming media.

If you have any comments about the content of this newsletter, please contact the editor, Brooke Sabin, at brooke_sabin@hotmail.com.

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